

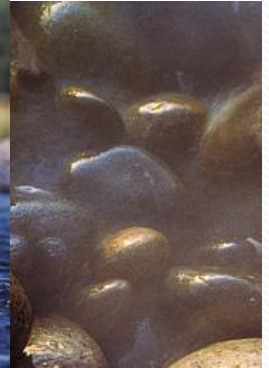
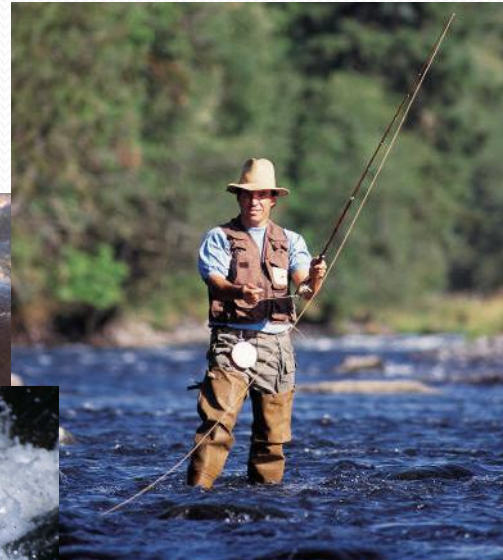
Shoreline Master Programs



**Defining our future
together**

Storming the South Sound
October 3, 2011

Shorelines



...where the land and water meet

Shoreline master programs

- Requirement of voter-approved Shoreline Management Act 1972 (Chapter 90.58 RCW) and associated rules (WACs)
- Over 260 towns, cities and counties with “locally-tailored” policies and regulations
- Part of local comprehensive land use planning
- Not retroactive - existing development “grandfathered”; can rebuild within existing footprint

Shoreline master programs

- Plan for and manage the use and development of Washington's shorelines
 - Environmental protection
 - Public access to public lands and waters
 - Water-dependent uses

Program partnership

State government, local government, all interested parties

Dept. of Ecology

- Protects the broad public and statewide interests (cumulative impacts, consistency)
- Ensures state law is met
- Provides technical assistance



Program partnership

Town, city or county government

- Write and administers locally-tailored policies and regulations
- Administers and enforces shoreline permits



Program partnership

All interested parties (you!)

- Define a future vision
- Provide input on program content
- Review and comment on permits



Where do SMPs apply?

- Lakes larger than 20 acres
- Streams/rivers with flow greater than 20 cfs
- All marine shorelines – Puget Sound, Pacific Coast
- Associated wetlands and shorelands (typically within 200 feet of water, with exceptions)

Where does the Act apply?

- Special preference for protection of shorelines of statewide significance
 - Puget Sound → Adjacent salt water areas waterward of the extreme low tide line
 - Nisqually Delta → Estuarine areas between ordinary high water mark and extreme low tide, and all associated shorelands

Updates underway

- 2003 legislature - “comprehensive” updates of all local programs
 - Some over 40 years old
 - Population has doubled
 - Apply new science/knowledge
- Most funding provided by state
- Takes 2-3 years

Update steps

- Year 1:
 - Write public participation plan; convene citizen and technical committees
 - Conduct science-based shoreline inventory and characterization that forms foundation of decisions (**data!**)



Update steps

- Years 2-3:
 - Designate land use overlay that reflects community vision
 - Write restoration plan (**projects!**)
 - Town, city or county council adopts
 - Ecology reviews and adopts if the program meets requirements



Economic benefits

- Protects lives and property by keeping development from occurring in unsafe areas.
- Helps cities and counties realize their vision for waterfront use and development.
- Avoids costly future restoration of degraded shorelines.
- Interfaces with other local land use planning (e.g. utilities plan, transportation plan, critical areas ordinance).

Community benefits

- Avoids neighbor-to-neighbor conflicts
 - Noise, lighting, property line setbacks between houses, building heights, aesthetics
 - Piers and docks, shoreline armoring
 - Public notification of projects
 - Areas for long-term preservation or restoration
- Respects both public and private property rights
 - Local attorney and state attorney general review for no loss of property rights

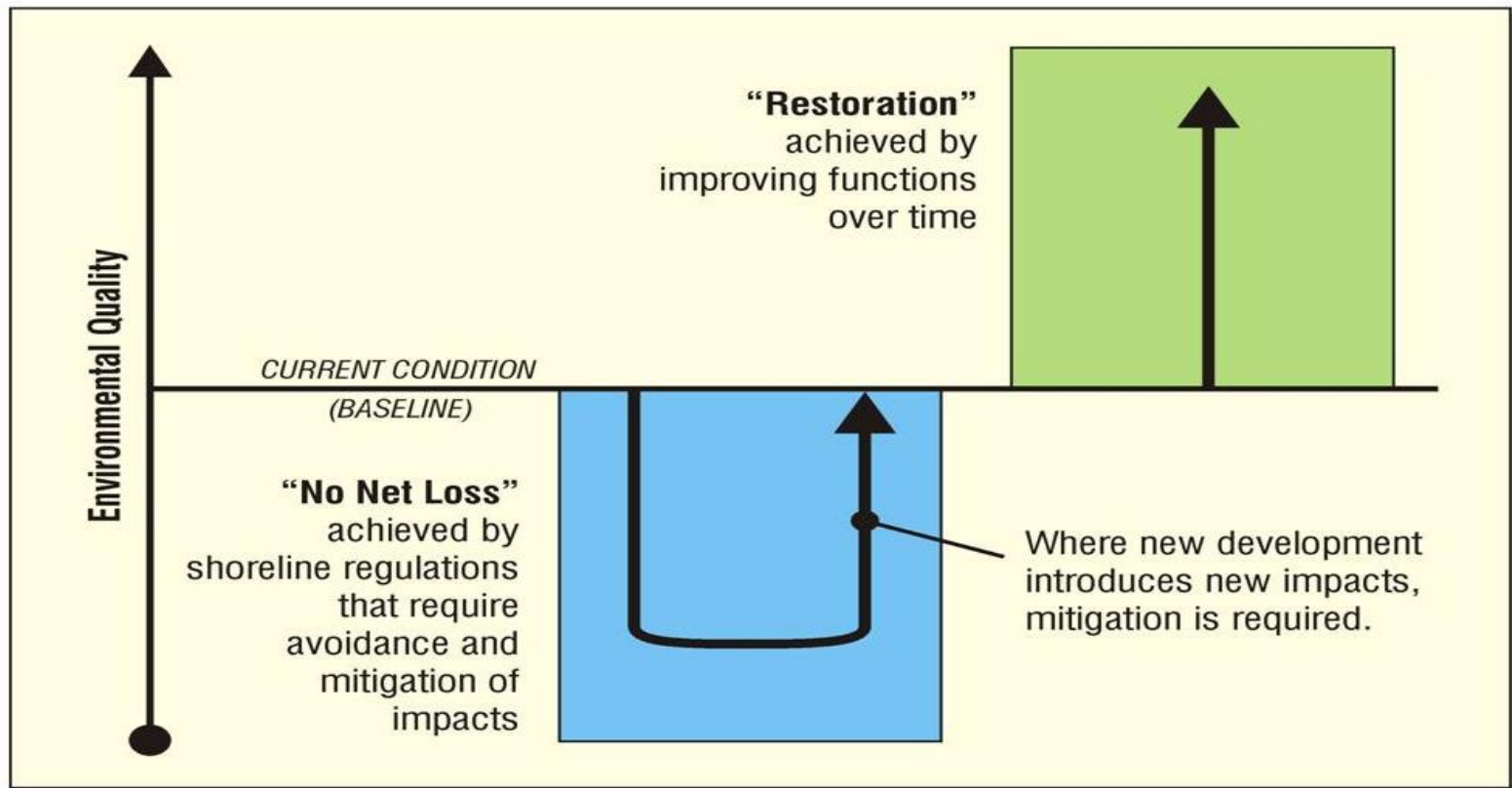
Environmental benefits

- Protects overall health of shorelines and public lands and waters → no net loss of ecological functions
 - Reduces how often landslides and floods occur, and how much damage is caused by them.
 - Protects critical fish and wildlife habitat.
 - Restores unhealthy shorelines and increases the health of public lands and waters.



Tough issues: No Net Loss

**Two Distinct Objectives:
No-Net Loss of Shoreline Ecological Functions
and Restoration Over Time**



Tough issues: Public access

- Public access to public waters and lands; may require access across private lands



Tough issues: Public access



Tough issues: Armoring

- “Hard” armoring discouraged
- May be allowed when other more long-term effective strategies aren’t practical or
 - in an emergency



Tough issues: Armoring

Natural shoreline



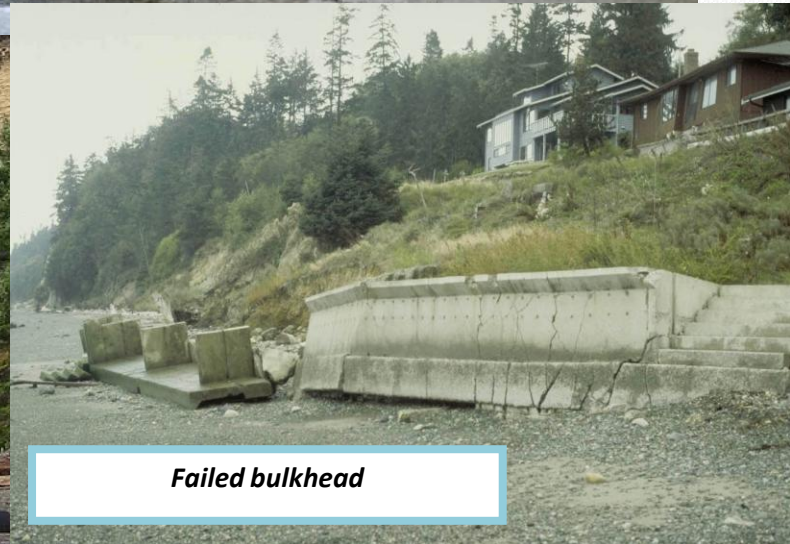
Armored shoreline



Feeder Bluff



Failed bulkhead



How to interact with SMPs

- Get involved and encourage others – influence the future
- Use restoration plan
- Provide data or use what's available for student or volunteer projects

Citizen engagement tips

Be the Wave!

- Review public participation plan
- Sign up for notices and forward to others
- Engage your volunteers or students in providing anecdotal data (nest sites, shoreline use, etc.)
- Serve on technical or citizen committees
- Comment on drafts
- Attend meetings, field trips, open houses
- Provide recommendations
- Review and comment on permits



Tap into restoration plan

For individual, volunteer, or student projects



Tap into data

For individual, volunteer, or student projects

- Inventory and characterization, cumulative impacts analysis, etc.
- Ecology Shoreline Data and Information page
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/data/index.html>

Thank you!

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